Iowa & Sac Mission Feb 18th & 1845.

Soc. Engr. P. D. Com.

Dear Brethren:

Your kind letter of April 26th 1844. was received in due time. As your session was about closing, we did not then write, and during this winter, we have had our hands full, having in addition to our usual labours to prepare materials for the building for the M. L. B. School. But though I did not write, I have often thought of you, and I feel, dear brethren, though we have not seen each other in the flesh, that I love you, because, I trust, you love Jesus Christ: and this love to our common Lord, I hope you will cultivate with all possible care, while you are surrounded with so many advantages, and have so many things to induce you to cultivate personal holiness. I have often dwelt with delight upon the records of him, who was once an inmate of your Seminary, and who left so bright an example to those who might come after him. You know I presume to whom I allude; J. B. Taylor. There may have been others like him; I earnestly hope his mantle may rest upon many more. And while you are treasuring up knowledge in order to be useful in after life, do not forget, dear brethren, that it is just as necessary to treasure up holiness in your own hearts. When you go forth

from those sacred halls, either to the foreign, or domestic field, you will see many things, to which you are now strangers, and to which you must continue to be strangers until you shall have learned them by experience, that will convince you of the necessity of having leveled near to God. But lest I should be taking upon me, things that better become others, I will change the subject, and endeavor to reply to some questions in good hast.

1 The climate. This is sometimes delightful, but often severe and sudden changes. At one time there was a change of about 45° in three hours, from warm to cold, and the cold still continued to increase for several hours longer. Rain, (with the exception of last summer) not very frequent, but heavy dews. I think on the whole the country is healthy except on the bottoms of streams. The soil is very productive. The climate does not suit those predisposed to Consumptions, consumption, or liver complaint.

2 Domestick habits. It is difficult to describe them in the space of a letter. So far as my experience goes, I have found their habits to be very different from what I supposed them to be from various accounts I heard about Indians in my youth. They are more loquacious than taciturn. In their little circles, several often speak at the same time; and they are exceedingly fond of jokes. With respect to their victuals, they are any thing but cleanly, and in dress they are no better. They may be said to be almost without family government. The women are generally industrious; but the men

are lazy, and what seems to be worse they think it a disgrace to labour. With few exceptions, the men are intemperate, and many of the women; the younger class are also learning the same evil habits. Although they have little family government, they are fond of their children, and it seems to be as much of an honour among them to be fruitful as it was among the Israelites. They are very superstitious. But I may add that the Norways appear to be improving in many of these things, though it be but slowly.

2. Language. It is difficult to say how long it will take to acquire a knowledge of their language. We have been here seven years, (Mr. Dorn nearly eight) and we have much yet to learn. Some have acquired a knowledge sufficient to converse in a few years. This however is far from a correct knowledge. In my own case many things occured to retard my progress, which might not often be the case with others. I should think a written language could be acquired with half the labour that would be necessary in an unwritten one, (I mean a knowledge sufficient to reduce it to a system,) unless it were possible to be with them constantly, and hear little else but their own language. Even in English where there is a standard, there is great deference in the pronunciation of words by different persons, how much more is this likely to be the case where each individual is governed often by his own fancy. The length of time to acquire any language will depend much on the attention one is able to devote to it. I have not much knowledge of the Sac Language

We were glad to hear by you of the tokens of Gods presence among yourselves and others, and would be glad to tell you of the heathen around us flocking to the gates of Zion. But we are constrained in a great measure to say, "Who hath believed our report?" Still we are not discouraged. Sometimes a few will listen with some degree of attention, but often they are more disposed to mock, & trifle.

Rec. March 25. '45
Ans'd " April 14.

Society of Inquiry
Princeton Theol. Sem.
N. J.

We have every prospect now of having a suitable building erected during the present year to start a boarding school of about fifty scholars. May the Lord make it a blessing to the nations around us. Do not in the great fields opened for the spread of the gospel, forget the poor, down trodden Indian. As a nation, we owe them a debt we can never pay.

That you may have all spiritual blessings in Christ, is the sincere desire of your affectionate Brother in the Lord.

Wm Garrison